

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4010

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP CHANGES IN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES COMMITTEES

REF: (A) 76 MANAGUA 3125, (B) USUN 2475

1. THE NEW MEMBERSHIP OF TWENTY-THREE OF THE TWENTY-FIVE PERMANENT COMMITTEES OF THE NICARAGUAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES WAS ANNOUNCED BY CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT CORNELIO HUECK ON AUGUST 4. THIS WAS THE FIRST CHANGE IN THE COMMITTEES' MEMBERSHIP SINCE THE PRE-SENT CONGRESS WAS INAUGURATED IN 1974. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE TOOK PLACE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, WHERE THREE OF THE PREVIOUS FIVE MEMBERS WERE REPLACED, INCLUDING THE COMMITTEE'S MOST AGRES-SIVE MEMBER, CONSERVATIVE DEPUTY JULIO MOLINA. THE COMMITTEE IS NOW COMPOSED OF ALEJANDRO FAJARDO RIVAS, FRANCISCO URCUYO MALIANO, LUIS FELIPE HIDALGO, LIBERALS, AND STANFORD CASH AND CARLOS MASIS, CONSERVATIVES.

2. COMMENT: MOLINA HAD BECOME A NUISANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND AN EMBARRASSMENT TO SOME OF HIS MORE CAUTIOUS COLLEAGUES IN THE CONSER-VATIVE PARTY (PCN) THROUGH HIS ACTIVE AND VOCAL ADVOCACY OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING A WELL-PUBLICIZED TRIP TO THE U.S. (WITHOUT PCN SPONSORSHIP) TO TESTIFY AT LONG SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON NICARAGUA. MOLINA WAS DISMISSED FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE AND FROM ALL OF HIS OTHER COMMITTEES BY CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT HUECK,
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APPARENTLY WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE PCN LEADERSHIP. TWO OTHER CON-SERVATIVE MALCONTENTS, DEPUTIES CARLOS LARGAESPADA AND ALBERTO SABORIO, WERE ALSO STRIPPED OF THEIR COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS. THESE CHANGES WILL LIKELY STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THE LEADERSHIP OF CONGRESS AND OF THE PCN VIS-A-VIS THE CONSERVATIVE "RADICALS" LIKE MOLINA AND SABORIO WHO WILL NOW FIND THEIR ABILITY TO PURUSE HUMAN RIGHTS AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT CAUSES CURTAILED.

RUBENSTEIN

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